

Message Text

SECRET

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P 211545Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMTM DHAHRAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 300241

EXDIS HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT JIDDA 8377 ACTION SECSTATE DEC 21.

QUOTE: S E C R E T JIDDA 8377

EXDIS

DEPT PLS PASS SECDEF, OASD/ISA/SA/DSAA, USMTM DHAHRAN

FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI URGENT ARMS REQUIREMENTS

REF: A. JIDDA 7979 B. JIDDA 8376

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A LETTER I SUBMITTED TO SAG
MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRINCE SULTAN DURING OUR DEC 20
MEETING (REF B), CONF
RMING MILITARY SUPPLY DECISIONS
I WAS AUTHORIZED TO CONVEY.

2. "YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS:

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" I AM HAPPY TO BEAR WITH ME MY GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE

TO YOUR LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 17. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE POINTS YOU HAVE MADE IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS TO SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER, AND TO AMBASSADOR JAMES AKINS, HAVE RECEIVED THE MOST CAREFUL AND SYMPATHETIC ATTENTION AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. AS YOU HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY AMBASSADOR AKINS, THE DEFINITION OF SPECIFIC DELIVERY DATES FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE GENERAL DECISIONS CONVEYED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER IN TAIF INVOLVED COMPLICATED LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO PRODUCTION SCHEDULES AND SUPPLY COMMITMENTS AT HOME AND ABROAD.

"I HAVE THE HONOR TO INFORM YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO MOVE RAPIDLY FORWARD TO SUPPORT THE SAUDI ARABIAN ARMY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.

"THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO RESPOND TO THE REQUEST MADE BY YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PROVIDE TO SAUDI ARABIA THE MEANS TO ACHIEVE A LIMITED BUT EFFECTIVE MECHANIZED CAPABILITY BY MID-CALENDAR YEAR 1977, AND A FULLY OPERATIONAL FORCE OF TWO MECHANIZED BRIGADES BY THE END OF CALENDAR YEAR 1978. OUR RESPONSE DOES NOT FULLY MEET THE REQUEST IN YOUR LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 17 WHICH ASKED THAT DELIVERIES OF ALL EQUIPMENT ON YOUR LIST OF JUNE 15 BE DELIVERED WITHIN ONE YEAR. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE DELIVERIES WE ARE PROPOSING GIVE SAUDI ARABIA PRIORITY FROM THE PRODUCTION LINES OF UNCOMMITTED EQUIPMENT. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE, MOREOVER, TO IMPROVE DELIVERY TIMING IN KEY AREAS BY THE EARLY DIVERSION OF EQUIPMENT INCLUDING SOME M60A1 TANKS AND M113 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS. THIS WILL ALLOW THE INITIATION OF TRAINING NEXT YEAR.

"THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ASSUMPTIONS UPON WHICH OUR PROPOSAL IS BASED. THESE ARE:

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"(1) SAUDI ARABIA WILL RECEIVE PRIORITY ON UNCOMMITTED PRODUCTION.

"(2) THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA WILL PROVIDE ADEQUATE NUMBERS OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL FOR TRAINING.

"(3) CONSIDERABLE TECHNICAL TRAINING OF SAUDI ARABIAN ARMY PERSONNEL WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES (CONUS). (THESE PERSONNEL WILL REQUIRE A AVERAGE OF 23 WEEKS EACH OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING, WHICH WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED IN CONUS.)

"(4) THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WILL COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH THE MILITARY TRAINING MISSION (USMTM) AND THE SAUDI ORDNANCE CORPS PROGRAM (SOCP) ON IN-COUNTRY OPERATOR AND OPERATOR MAINTENANCE TRAINING, AND WILL PROVIDE A FAIRLY LARGE NUMBER OF INTERPRETERS. A MAJOR EFFORT TO INSURE ADEQUATE SOCP SUPPORT AND HOUSING SHOULD BE MADE.

"(5) THE SAUDI ORDNANCE CORPS PROGRAM WILL BE EXPANDED AS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY SUPPORT ASSISTANCE.

"(6) SUPPLY SUPPORT AGREEMENTS WILL BE EXPANDED TO TAKE CARE OF THE NEW EQUIPMENT.

"(7) THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE A SUPPORT BASE AND HOUSING FOR MILITARY TRAINING TEAMS (MTTS) AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FIELD TEAMS (TAFTS) THAT WILL PROVIDE THE INITIAL IN-COUNTRY TRAINING. THE INTRODUCTION OF TAFTS/MTTS WILL REQUIRE SIGNING OF FMS CASES AAA AND AAB FOR USMTM EXPANSION AND PROVISION OF HOUSING.

"(8) THE SAG WILL SIGN A LOI (LETTER OF INTENT) FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF THE EQUIPMENT OFFERED BY JANUARY 15, 1976. IT WILL ACCEPT THE
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LETTERS OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE (LOA) WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER DELIVERY OF UNSIGNED LOAS. (THE PURPOSE OF THE LETTER OF INTENT IS TO INSURE THAT SAUDI ARABIA MAINTAINS ITS PRESENT FIRST PLACE IN LINE FOR UNCOMMITTED PRODUCTION. WITHOUT SIGNED AND ACCEPTED LETTERS OF INTENT, ANOTHER COUNTRY COULD COME IN WITH A FIRM ORDER AND THEREBY ALTER THE SAUDI PREFERENTIAL POSITION.)

"THE ATTACHED CHART WILL SHOW IN OUTLINE FORM OUR PROPOSED DELIVERY DATES. IT SHOULD BE NOTED IN PARTICULAR THAT IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT EQUIPMENT ITEMS THAT ARE BEING DELIVERED EARLY, AND THAT IN-COUNTRY TRAINING WILL, THEREFORE, BE POSSIBLE USING THIS EQUIPMENT. THE ITEMS MARKED FOR EARLY DELIVERY

INCLUDE:

"21 M60A1 TANKS

"1 M60 AVLB

"1 M88A1 RECOVERY VEHICLE

"(3) M88A1 RECOVERY VEHICLE...1 IN THE THIRD
QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1977, WITH THE REMAINING
DELIVERIES TO BEGIN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF CALENDAR
YEAR 1978, AT THE RATES OF 1 AND 2 PER MONTH UP TO
A TOTAL OF 18.

"(4) M113 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS...8
WILL BE DELIVERED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF CALENDAR
YEAR 1977, WITH DELIVERIES OF THE REMAINDER TO
BEGIN IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1977
UP TO A TOTAL OF 1,104 VEHICLES.

"(5) M578 LIGHT RECOVERY VEHICLES...DELIVERIES
TO BEGIN IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1977
AT A RATE OF 5 PER MONTH UP TO A TOTAL OF 52.

"(6) 155 MM SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS...24
WILL BE INITIALLY PROVIDED ON A LOAN BASIS TO BE
FOLLOWED BY DELIVERY OF 43 (ALREADY ORDERED) IN
SEPTEMBER 1977, AND THE DELIVERY OF THE PROPOSED
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ORDER OF 50 MORE TO BEGIN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1978.

"(7) TOW...THE REMAINING 102 LAUNCHERS TO
BE DELIVERED STARTING IN THIRD QUARTER CALENDAR
YEAR 1977 AT RATE OF 7 PER MONTH; THE REMAINING
2,540 MILLILES TO BE DELIVERED BEGINNING IN FOURTH
QUARTER CALENDAR YEAR 1976 AT 50 PER MONTH,
INCREASING TO 200 PER MONTH IN THIRD QUARTER
CALENDAR YEAR 1977, AND 400 PER MONTH IN THE
FIRST QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1978.

"(8) DRAGON...EARLY DELIVERY OF 20
TRACKERS AND 400 LAUNCHERS TO BE MADE IN THE
THRID AND FOURTH QUARTERS OF CALENDAR YEAR 1977.
DELIVERY OF THE REMAINDER WILL START IN THE FIRST
QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1978, AT A RATE OF 16
TRACKERS AND 320 MISSILES PER MONTH, UP TO A
TOTAL OF 213 TRACHERS AND 4,260 MISSILES.

"(9) REDEYE...DELIVERIES TO BEGIN THE
FIRST QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 19-8 UP TO A TOTAL
OF 300 MISSILES.

"(10) LAW...DELIVERIES OF 5,000 UNITS TO
BE MADE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1976.

"(11) 12 BULLDOZERS, 24 TRK WRECKER 5T (M816)
AND 18 BULLDOZER BLADE KITS (XM111) ALL TO BE DE-
LIVERED THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1977.

"WE ARE PREPARING A CAREFUL AND DETAILED PRESENTA-
TION ON TRAINING AND MILITARY DELIVERIES, WHICH INDICATES
CLEARLY TO US THAT THE UNITED STATE GOVERNEMENT AND
THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT WILL NEED TO
COOPERATE INTENSIVELY AND FULLY ON TRAINING
TO MEET THIS DELIVERY SCHEDULE. WE PROPOSE
THAT A BRIEFING TEAM OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
EXPERTS COME TO SAUDI ARABIA IN EARLY JANUARY
OF 1976 TO EXPLAIN THE MANNER IN WHICH MANPOWER
AND TRAINING MUST BE COORDINATED WITH EQUIPMENT
DELIVERIES. THE TEAM WOULD BRING WITH THEM UN-
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SIGNED LETTERS OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE FOR ALL
EQUIPMENT ITEMS. WE HOPE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS
WILL APPROVE THE SENDING OF THIS TEAM.

"WITH ALL GOOD WISHES.

SINCERELY,
ALFRED L. ATHERTON, JR."

3. COPY OF CHART REFERRED TO IN LETTER BEING HAND-
CARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY MR. HOENIG FOR DOD AND COPY
BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT C/O NEA/ARP AND PM/SAS.
HORAN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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